

God vs. Goliath: How God Uses Small People to Do Great Things (1 Samuel 16:14-23 – 17:1-58)

1 Samuel 16:1-23 – Principles of Preparation (Patiently Prepare to Be Used)

God uses those that are ready to be used – those that faithfully serve where they are, and allow God to prepare them through the smaller things to do great things.)

1. God Sees You for What You Are

God measures your faithfulness and your heart (attitude), even when others do not even consider you as an option.

Age, Birth Order, Experience, Opinions of Others

God is not bound nor influenced by the perspectives, attitudes, and assessments of the world.

Are you faithfully serving where God has put you?

¹ Now the LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons." ² And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears *it*, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' ³ "Then invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; you shall anoint for Me the one I name to you." ⁴ So Samuel did what the LORD said, and went to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵ And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons, and invited them to the sacrifice. ⁶ So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, "Surely the LORD'S anointed *is* before Him." ⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For *the LORD does not see as man sees*; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." ⁸ So Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰ Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these." ¹¹ And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all the young men here?" Then he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here." ¹² So he sent and brought him in. Now he *was* ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this *is* the one!"

2. God Knows Where You Are

God can find you when He needs you. He can call you when He's ready.

- David was in a field faithfully doing what he was assigned to do. God found him.

- Moses

- Steve Dawson (pastoring)

- my story – preparation through parents, SS, camp, pastors, paper route, military, Georgia church experiences including song leading, Indiana, etc.)

- Saul/Paul – 13 years in obscurity, then Barnabas (Silas?) goes to find him (based upon his faithful service – 1 Timothy 1:12

¹² *And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting [me] into the ministry,*

- Choosing of pastors and deacons (1 Tim 3:2, 10)

Are you focusing on your tasks rather than focusing on being recognized?

¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.

3. God Creates the Steps

God knows how to create a need to place people where He wants them.

Will you trust God to put you where He wants?

¹⁴ But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him. ¹⁵ And Saul's servants said to him, "Surely, a distressing spirit from God is troubling you.

4. God Uses Your "Now" to Get You Ready for "Later"

Do Not Discount Life's Tasks as Preparations for God's Future Plans

Up until this time, David had developed skills in playing music, in fighting and courage, and speaking with wisdom.

Are you faithfully learning and mastering what God has assigned to you now?

¹⁶ "Let our master now command your servants, *who are* before you, to seek out a man *who is* a skillful player on the harp; and it shall be that he will play it with his hand when the distressing spirit from God is upon you, and you shall be well." ¹⁷ So Saul said to his servants, "Provide me now a man who can play well, and bring *him* to me." ¹⁸ Then one of the servants answered and said, "Look, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, *who is* skillful in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the LORD *is* with him."

5. God Knows How to Get Us Ready for Even Greater Tasks

David was eventually to become king. He was placed in the realm of kings as a harpist. He was on the staff of the king! Give God credit to know what He is doing, and to use the training and tasks of life for His good work.

Are you trusting in God's wisdom as He determines your circumstances? (or do you fight against His plans?)

Do you understand that God's preparations are a journey, not an instant "zap?"

¹⁹ Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse, and said, "Send me your son David, who *is* with the sheep." ²⁰ And Jesse took a donkey *loaded with* bread, a skin of wine, and a young goat, and sent *them* by his son David to Saul. ²¹ So David came to Saul and stood before him. And he loved him greatly, and he became his armorbearer. ²² Then Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Please let David stand before me, for he has found favor in my sight."

²³ And so it was, whenever the spirit from God was upon Saul, that David would take a harp and play *it* with his hand. Then Saul would become refreshed and well, and the distressing spirit would depart from him.